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Letter dated 18 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to our letter dated 5 February 2001 addressed to you (S/2001/115) and on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 14 February 2001 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. Appended to the Minister's letter is a table showing violations of Iraq's international boundaries committed by United States and British warplanes flying across the demilitarized zone monitored by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) in the period from 27 January to 9 February 2001.

The Minister urges you to secure the necessary technical systems to enable UNIKOM to perform its functions in the manner required by its mandate under the relevant Security Council resolutions and to track and identify all of these violations and encroachments, which constitute wanton aggression against Iraq and against its people, its sovereignty and its territory and are incompatible with the relevant Security Council resolutions, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to our letter dated 4 February 2001 addressed to you (S/2001/115, annex), I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes committed 133 violations of Iraq's international boundaries by way of the demilitarized zone monitored by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) in the period from 27 January to 9 February 2001. On the basis of the table appended to this letter, the relevant Iraqi authorities have determined that the violations committed were as follows:

1. Armed and hostile aerial activity by the United States and the United Kingdom, violating our international boundaries from the demilitarized zone, comprised 133 sorties in the following governorates: Basrah, Muthanna, Najaf, Qadisiyah, Maysan, Wasit and Dhi Qar.

2. Our technical systems identified the aircraft violating Iraq's airspace on an almost daily basis as American F-15s and F-16s and British Tornadoes.

3. All of the armed and hostile sorties that violated Iraq's airspace from the demilitarized zone received support from an AWACS aircraft operating inside Saudi Arabian airspace and an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace.

All of the violations in question were committed by way of the demilitarized zone in which UNIKOM is stationed. UNIKOM has the responsibility of monitoring such hostile military operations and reporting them immediately or, at the very least, including information in their regard in the periodic reports that it submits to you and thence to the Security Council for purposes of documentation. The members of the Council and the international community in general are thus informed of the violations of the demilitarized zone committed by United States and British warplanes and of the aggression in which such aircraft engage on a daily basis against Iraqi territory so that they may take appropriate measures to halt these violations.

The statements of UNIKOM to the effect that it is unable to monitor or identify these aircraft cannot be maintained in the light of the scientific and technological capabilities that are available or that UNIKOM is in a position to obtain and utilize in order to fulfil the requirements of its mandate by establishing the identity and country of the warplanes that are violating Iraq's sovereign airspace.

I accordingly urge you once more to secure the systems that will allow UNIKOM to perform its functions in the manner required by its mandate under the relevant Security Council resolutions by identifying all aerial violations of the demilitarized zone, which constitute wanton aggression against Iraq and against its people, its sovereignty and its territory and are incompatible with the relevant Security Council resolutions, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

Appendix

Hostile aerial activity violating Iraq's international boundaries from Kuwait, 27 January-9 February 2001

No.	*Date*	*From*	*Time*	*Type*	*Sorties*	*Altitude (metres)*	*Speed (km/h)*	*Areas overflown*
1	27 January-2 February	Kuwait	0830-1430	F-15, F-16	55	10,000-11,000	720-780	Basrah, Qurnah, Ashbajah, Samawah, Najaf, Diwaniyah, Busayyah, Umm Qasr
2	3-9 February	Kuwait	0940-2135	F-15, F-16	78	10,000-11,000	720-780	Basrah, Maysan, Wasit, Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Qadisiyah

Total sorties: 133